

thority, equalled that of the barons of France; their claims would have added to a power so overgrown had not the walled towns everywhere strenuously resisted. In addition to supreme criminal justice over their tenants, they claimed a homage from them which overrode that owed to the duke; the services and dues demanded were apparently arbitrary; they insisted on their "men" doing garrison duty or "castle-guard," and generally pressed to the full the claims of North French feudalism. Against the towns and communes they asserted claims as vigorous; they strove to introduce the hated "ordeal of battle" of the feudal classes; the arbitrary and ruinous nature of their demands is seen in the exactions pressed upon a city so great as Benevento, On November 14, 1137, Roger, now freed from the German menace, rewarded the submission of Benevento by a charter in which he released the city and its contado from the exactions levied on them both by his own predecessors and the Normans of the vicinity; the list of these dues, generally paid to Roger, Count of Ariano, is a, most impressive one, *

We have seen how Roger on Rainulf's submission in 1134 exacted an oath of

liege homage
 from his under-vassals; it is probable
 that the
 power of other great feudatories, after
 submission,
 was sapped by a similar proceeding,
 The Assises

¹ Falco Ben., anno 1136; they comprise "Mantias, angarias, terraticum, olivas, vimim, salutes, dationem de vineis, tefris aspris sylvis castanoStis et ecclesiis," etc,